

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (new) A ski including a kick-enhancing covering, the ski comprising:

an upper surface having a portion to which a ski boot is to be fastened;

an underside surface including a kick zone opposite to the portion to which the ski boot is fastened, and extending slightly in front of and slightly behind the portion to which the ski boot is fastened;

a recess in the underside surface forward of the kick zone;

a fixing plate disposed in the recess and secured in a forward portion thereof; and

a band or strip equipped with a skin, ski wax or waxless kick-enhancing covering limited to the kick zone;

the band or strip extending forward and being retained in the recess between a rearward portion of the fixing plate and the underside surface of the ski.

18. (new) A ski as claimed in claim 17, wherein the fixing plate is secured to the ski by means of an eccentric locking mechanism or adhesive, or is fastened to the ski with at least one screw, a screw-nut connection, or rivet arrangement.

19. (new) A ski as claimed in claim 17, wherein the fixing plate is provided externally with a glider covering.

20. (new) A device for affixing to a ski a band or strip equipped with a kick-enhancing covering and comprising an engagement block mountable in the ski which comprises:

a top portion,

at least one housing portion which has at least one

engaging hole therethrough, and

a retaining piece with at least one engaging lug insertable into said engaging hole to receive and form retaining engagement with the at least one housing portion,

the retaining piece including means for fastening thereto a forward portion of the band or strip.

21. (new) A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the engaging hole is so dimensioned that when the engagement block is mounted in the ski, the hole extends through the ski from an underside to an upper side.

22. (new) A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the engagement block has two engaging holes for engagement with engaging lugs on retaining pieces.

23. (new) A device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said engaging hole and engaging lug each have at least one curved portion.

24. (new) A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein when the engagement block is mounted on the ski, the curved portion of the engaging hole extends in a curve upwards from an underside of the ski and in a forward direction of the ski.

25. (new) A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the engagement block has at least one housing portion which forms said hole, said housing portion, when the engagement block is mounted in the ski, extending from an upper side of the ski through the ski to an underside.

26. (new) In combination,

a kick-enhancing band or strip for mounting on a ski, the band or strip on one flat side thereof being attachable to a part of a ski sole by means of an adhesive, and being equipped on an opposite flat side with a skin, a no-wax covering or a ski wax covering, wherein the band or strip at a forward end is provided with a retaining piece designed for cooperation with a fixing device, and

a fixing device comprising a fixing plate on the underside of the ski, fixing holes through the ski, or an engagement block in the ski.

27. (new) A combination as claimed in claim 26, wherein the retaining piece is designed to wholly or partly be placed in a recessed portion of the underside of the ski and where the retaining piece is held in place by the fixing plate or engagement block.

28. (new) A combination as claimed in claim 26, wherein the retaining piece comprises at least one bolt for engagement with the fixing hole, and wherein the bolt has means for locking the retaining piece to the ski.

29. (new) A fitting for use with a ski as claimed in claim 17, wherein the fitting comprises a retaining piece having means for engagement with an end portion of a band or strip which has a kick-enhancing covering, and the retaining piece has at least one bolt for insertion into a fixing hole in a ski, the bolt having an end portion designed for locking the retaining piece to the ski.

30. (new) A fitting for use with a device as claimed in claim 20, the fitting comprising a retaining piece having a means designed for engagement with an end portion of a band or strip which has a kick-enhancing covering, and the retaining piece having two curved engaging lugs designed for insertion into and engagement with an engagement block mountable in a ski.

31. (new) A fitting as claimed in claim 29, wherein said means comprises at least two bendable fixing hooks arranged at the rear edge of the retaining piece, designed to penetrate through the band or strip.